GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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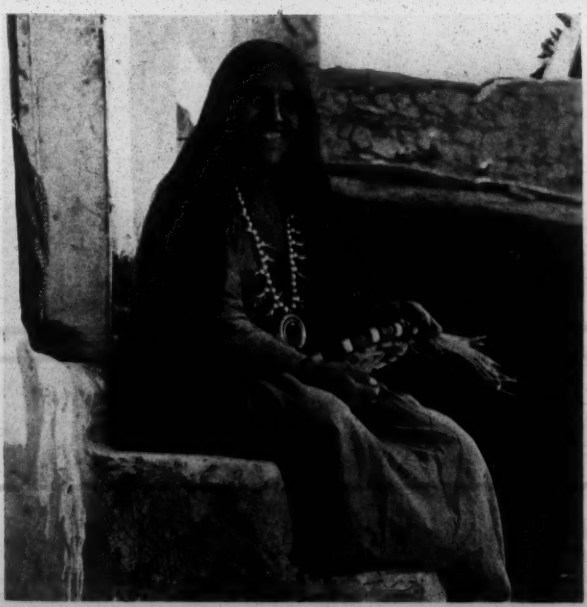
NOTE TO TEACHERS: The next issue of the Geographic News Bulletins will be published upon the reopening of schools in October. The Bulletins are not issued during the summer vacation months. It will facilitate the handling and prompt mailing of the Bulletins in the fall if teachers will apply now for the Bulletins they need for next year. See application form following Bulletin No. 5.



Photograph by Sumner W. Matteson

NEW FACTS ON THE ANCIENT INDIAN CIVILIZATION OF THE SOUTHWEST WILL BE GIVEN AT THE SUMMER CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
(See Bulletin No. 1)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Accepted for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

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Teachers To Hear How Tree-Ring Calendar Carries American History Back to 700 A.D.

"HOW Tree Rings Solved a Mystery of Early American History" will be the subject of an address by Neil M. Judd before teachers assembled for the National Education Association Convention in Columbus, Ohio. The address, illustrated by motion pictures and slides from color photographs, will be given in the Main Auditorium, where convention sessions are held, at 3:30 o'clock on the afternoon of Wednesday, July 2.

Teachers will hear and see the amazing scientific story of a study which led from sun spots to timbers in Pueblo ruins, and gave the solution to the long vexing question of the age of numerous major Pueblo ruins which represent the earliest known development of civilization in what now is the United States.

Two Series of Expeditions

Two series of National Geographic Society expeditions culminated in these findings, announced only a few months ago. One series of expeditions under Mr. Judd explored the now famous Pueblo Bonito Ruins of Chaco Canyon, New Mexico. The other, directed by Dr. A. E. Douglass, sought to ascertain the age of those ruins, and, in doing so, dated scores of other important ruins which flourished before Columbus came to America.

In announcing the findings of these expeditions to members of the National Geographic Society, through the *National Geographic Magazine*, Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, president of The Society, said:

> "These expeditions have pushed back the historic horizons of the southwestern United States to a period nearly eight centuries before Columbus crossed the Atlantic.
>
> "They have discovered not only the age of the great communal dwelling of Pueblo Bonito, metropolis of our aboriginal Southwest, but also have dated some forty other ruins whose time of occupancy hitherto had been unknown.
>
> "Moreover, they have developed a tree-ring calendar which can be applied to all early ruins in which datable timbers exist.
>
> "A collateral finding of great interest, yet to be developed, is the possible relation between the weather cycles clearly revealed in this tree-ring calendar of the southwestern United States and similar cyclic variations being recorded by a third National Geographic Society expedition, in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution."

"The Beautiful Village" an Early Apartment House

Pueblo Bonito, which means Beautiful Village, was an Indian town inhabited by approximately 1,200 Pueblo Indians. The great communal dwelling, the people who lived there, and the dates which now can be assigned to various stages of their history are explained by Mr. Judd as follows:

"Archeologists now divide the civilization of the Pueblo Indians into five distinct stages of development, the last of which is that now existing in New Mexico and Arizona. The fourth Pueblo period ended with the coming of Coronado and his fellow adventurers in 1540. The first period lies in that distant, unmeasured past when Pueblo culture was still relatively crude.

"Pueblo Bonito and similar large communal structures, housing numbers of independent clans or family groups, characterized the third period of Pueblo history. The earliest ceiling beam recovered during the National Geographic Society's explorations was felled in the year 919 A.D.; the latest in 1130. The

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© *Holloway*

ZERO HOUR FOR THE SEAL HUNTERS

Each captain strives to get his men into the patch first, but it seldom happens that he can find and have the "main patch" all to himself. More often several vessels of the sealing fleet reach the seal herd at the same time. Crew competes against crew, man against man. Hundreds of sealers advance over the white no man's land like waves of infantry (See Bulletin No. 2).

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Newfoundland's Seal Hunt in the Talkies

NEWFOUNDLAND'S annual seal hunt on the tossing, crunching ice floes has been made into a talkie by actors and photographers who went out with the fleet this spring.

Hundreds of Newfoundlanders served as film "supers" as well as seal hunters, according to reports from St. Johns, which is the capital of the hazardous sealing industry. One man taking an important part in the production is Captain Robert Bartlett, veteran sealer and companion of Peary on North Pole expeditions.

Ship Covered with Ice in Freezing Sea

Captain Bartlett tells of one of his sealing trips in a communication to the National Geographic Society:

"The best trip I ever made sealing was in the *Bonaventure,* my first steel vessel.

"The *Bonaventure* was a fine, strong, steel vessel of 1,500 tons, built expressly for the seal hunt—extra heavy beams and scantling (fore-and-aft braces), thicker shell plating, a rocker bow, and a heavy stern frame to carry a stout rudder and post.

"Two hundred seventy men signed articles. The sailing date fell on Saturday and we were all ready to cast off at noon.

"We cleared Channel Head and we hauled up for Cape Ray. The ice was about 10 miles offshore and the lop (big sea) hove down from the northwest. The *Bonaventure,* with engines wide open, took them green over the forecastle, clean over the bridge. In about twenty minutes she was one solid block of ice.

"With the coming of night the wind dropped, enabling us to make the ice—that is, get under the weather edge of ice, where the water smoothes. Here we lay until daylight next morning. At the first crack of dawn we were under way, following the leads and open water, and at length meeting the big level sheets of slob (new) ice. For a while we made good progress, but, on working in, the leads began to narrow and close up and the sheets got heavier. This slowed us down, and at times we were stopped.

When a Vessel Sticks in the Ice, Use Dynamite

"As we broke the bars (the points at which the ice sheets impinge), the sheets would swing together, jamming the vessel. She could go neither ahead nor astern. Then we had to resort to all sorts of schemes to get her astern, so we could butt the ice again and break our way through. All hands got on deck and ran from one side to the other to roll the ship.

"As long as you can move a ship in slob ice you can break it up and go along. But the *Bonaventure* was too heavy to roll, with all her coal and sealing gear.

"So then we put all hands out to free her, breaking up the ice around her sides. We made trenches with axes. This was slow. Dynamite was faster. We planted dynamite on one side and then on the other. Six shots at a time would shake up ice where it was nipping the *Bonaventure* and almost lift her out of the water. The engine, going full speed astern as the charge went off, would haul the vessel out of the trap. Then we would start out again.

tree-ring calendar, by means of which the age of Pueblo Bonito was finally ascertained, represents twenty-two generations of Arizona pine trees whose overlapping annual growth rings form an unbroken series extending from 1929 back to 700 A.D.

"Pueblo Bonito was under construction, therefore, just seven centuries before the Pilgrim Fathers landed on Plymouth Rock. It was undergoing extensive alteration and repair while William the Conqueror was defeating the English at the battle of Hastings. It gradually fell into decline and finally was deserted three centuries before Columbus was born.

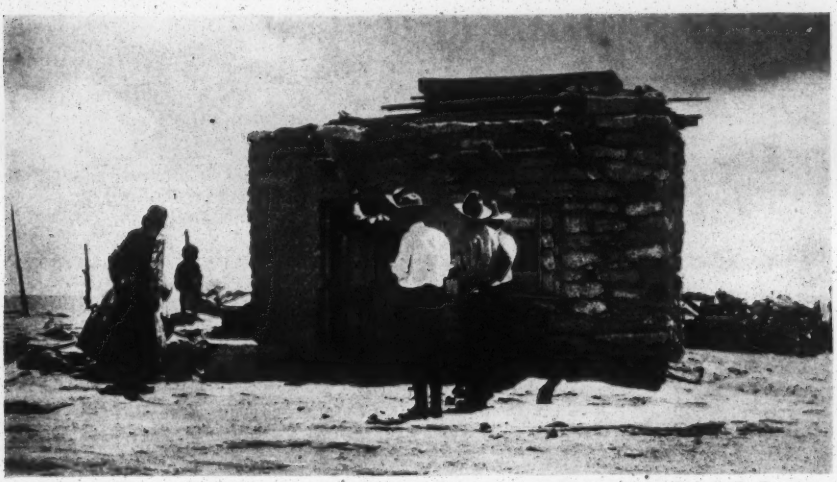
"In part at least, the Pueblos were descended from a long-headed people commonly called the Basket Makers. This unidentified people made excellent basketry and other textiles, yet were quite unfamiliar with the technique of pottery manufacture. They employed the *atlatl* or throwing stick and appear to have been unacquainted with the bow and arrow. The Basket Makers, essentially a nomadic, hunting tribe, were the first known inhabitants of the United States to acquire agriculture. In some fashion they obtained a single variety of maize or Indian corn, presumably from the highlands of Mexico. Cultivation of maize gradually forced the Basket Makers into a semi-sedentary life. Thus we find their distinctive culture merging almost imperceptibly with that of the first Pueblos.

Greatest Achievement Was in Home Building

"Until the arrival of the Spaniards in 1540 the Pueblo people had no metal tools, no beasts of burden, no domestic animals other than the dog and the turkey. The prehistoric Pueblos were noteworthy for the high plane of their civilization, one expression of which was architecture. Elsewhere in the New World primitive man's creative ability was directed toward construction of religious edifices—as the Mayan temples of Yucatan, the Toltec pyramids of Mexico—but in the southwestern United States the greatest achievements were in domestic architecture, in the building of communal homes. Pueblo Bonito and its neighboring ruins in Chaco Canyon mark the very apex of Pueblo skill in domestic architecture.

"Constantly increasing pressure from nomadic tribes that preyed upon peaceful, industrious Pueblo farmers, together with changing agricultural conditions, unquestionably contributed to the disruption of the great communities of Pueblo III and precipitated the decline of Pueblo culture that continues even to the present."

Bulletin No. 1, May 12, 1930.



© Photograph by Dr. A. E. Douglass

THE FIRST BEAM EXPEDITION FINDS A TALKATIVE TIMBER

From this modern house at Sichmovi beam hunters took a specimen whose tree rings show that it was cut by Indians nearly 100 years before Columbus reached the New World.

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Sacred Animals in India and Elsewhere

WHILE leading native reformers labor to establish some of the ancient customs of India that appear out of harmony with twentieth century ways, they have not yet challenged the sacred cow tradition.

Benares, India, the holy city of the Hindus, might be called "the capital" of the sacred animal world. In the narrow, congested streets travelers are jostled about by the crowds who bow and give way to sacred overfed cows and white bulls.

Pious Hindus please their gods by throwing clothing, trinkets and other offerings upon the animals until all but their hoofs are concealed. Now and then a sacred ape passes and is accorded the same respect; and in the so-called Monkey Temple and its courtyard, swarms of sacred monkeys are fed and petted by visiting pilgrims. Perhaps the fruit and vegetable stands bordering the city sidewalks suffer most from the pious quadrupeds. As the animals consume the merchandise the owner must permit it with a smile. He dares not mistreat the sacred beasts.

Bow in Reverence before Boa Constrictor

Creeping things such as lizards and snakes are held sacred by the natives of the South Sea Islands. Snakes are also "holy" among the natives of Nigeria whose three gods are the serpent, the tall tree and the sea. The serpent, however, is the most honored among them. They build snake temples in its honor, and the tribesmen's bodies are marked with crude figures of reptiles.

Since ancient times the Cambodians of French Indo-China have lined their highways and adorned their temples with monumental figures of Naga, a sacred seven-headed cobra. Upraised tails of the huge reptile extending from the gables of many Cambodian buildings resemble spiral lightning rods.

Natives of Madagascar believe that the souls of fellow tribesmen are reborn in boa constrictors, crocodiles and eels. The boa constrictor represents the soul of a nobleman. Instead of killing the reptile, the natives go down on their knees when they encounter one in the wilderness. Natives have been known to spread silk cloth in the path of boa constrictors that have come into villages.

To Catch a Fish Is To Hook a Relative

The souls of Madagascar commoners, according to the belief of some tribes, are reborn in crocodiles while a low class tribesman must be content with the life of an eel after death. Eels are also held sacred by some tribes of the Philippines. Other Filipinos believe their souls are reborn in the form of scorpions and insects which they do not kill.

The American would lead a miserable existence in Assam. Here some of the natives dare not kill the house fly for fear of destroying some of their ancestors. They likewise respect the butterfly. Some of the rivers in Upper Burma offer splendid fishing grounds, but one fish might mean death to the fisherman, for the natives in this region believe their dead relatives come to life in a fishy form. Rodents and climbing animals are held sacred in eastern Cochin China.

"Poor pussy" is not "poor" nor does she need nine lives among the Mangs, a low Indian caste who regard the cat as a sacred animal. Their most solemn oath is sworn "by the sacred cat." Another caste of India called the Naodas swear by the sacred dog or cow.

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"That night, at dark, I was well along toward Amherst Island, and we lay in the water between the ice and the land.

"Before dawn I went into the barrel (crow's nest, or observation post) and, when light enough to see, I looked out on nothing but close-packed ice in the direction I wanted to go. It was too heavy for us to break our way through. A little later I was delighted to see all around the vessel schools of old harps, some of them riding the ice nearby. Then I knew we were not far from the herd.

"All Hands Ready! Ropes and Gaffs!"

"Imagine yourself in Central Park surrounded by thousands of sheep and newborn lambs. This is what it looked like. The seals were all together on very large sheets of level ice. This was very unusual, and I have never seen the like of it before or since.

" 'All hands ready!' I shouted. 'Ropes and gaffs!'

"I put one watch crew on the starboard side, one on the port side, one ahead, and one astern—four watch crews—234 men on the ice. They began killing and panning the seals, knocking them on the heads with a gaff, slitting the carcasses along the belly, removing the sculps or pelts, and hauling them to markers. Markers are colored flags, like golf flags, stuck in the ice at each pile of sculps, so that the captain can return and pick up the pile as the men move on to another patch of the herd.

"For three full days the kill went on from daylight to dark."

Bulletin No. 2, May 12, 1930.

© Photograph by George Harding

MANY SEALING VESSELS HAVE BEEN NIPPED BY THE ICE AND SUNK

The *Grand Lake*, pride of the seal fishery, was lost with a load of 19,600 skins, on her sixth annual trip. Her crew of 203 men escaped over the ice to the *Vanguard*. Nature, as if to compensate seals for lack of means of defense, has given them a home guaranteed to discourage their enemies, both wild and civilized.

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How the Fifteen Mandates Are Faring

HOW are the mandated territories faring?

Twelve areas were marked out for fourteen mandates immediately following the World War. Since that time one of the areas—Ruanda in Central Africa—has been divided between Great Britain and Belgium, so that now fifteen mandates exist. The recent action of Great Britain, however, in promising Iraq to work for the ending of the mandate over that country and its reception into the League of Nations, may point the way to a decrease in the number.

All the mandated territories were carved from the colonies and dependencies of Germany and Turkey. Of the fifteen, ten were placed in charge of members of the British Commonwealth of Nations, three in charge of France, and one each in charge of Belgium and Japan.

Three Classes of Mandates, A, B, and C

Three classes of mandated territories were recognized. The Class A members, the three regions with most advanced populations, were all created from former Turkish lands. They are Iraq, with an area nearly three times that of New York State, and a population of nearly three million; Syria, with an area greater than that of Illinois and a population of more than two million; and Palestine-Transjordan, with an undetermined area which is probably twice that of Maryland, and a population of approximately a million.

Class B was made up of the tropical African colonial possessions of Germany: Tanganyika, Togoland, Cameroons and Ruanda. Tanganyika and Cameroons were great areas, the former nearly one and one-half times the size of Texas, and the latter larger than California. The population of Tanganyika is over four million and that of Cameroons about two million. Togoland was relatively small, approximately the size of Maine, while Ruanda was only half the size of Kentucky.

The Class C mandated territories are a varied lot, with huge South West Africa (almost equal to Texas and Louisiana combined) at one extreme, and the little Pacific island of Nauru, less than 10 square miles, at the other. Between lie former German New Guinea and near-by islands, with an area of more than 80,000 square miles; Western Samoa, 1,200 square miles in extent; and the Marianas, Caroline and Marshall Islands, with a total area of about 785 square miles.

The Many Ways of Governing Mandated Territory

The methods of governing the mandated areas vary greatly and in some cases have changed radically since the organization of the mandates. The greatest degree of autonomy is seen in Iraq, which has its king, responsible cabinet and parliament. The influence of the Mandatory Power is exercised only through a High Commissioner who advises the king, and through an air force.

In Syria, France has set up several states and territories. Those of greatest autonomy are the Republic of the Lebanon and the Republic of Syria. The latter, embracing the former states of Damascus and Aleppo, has not had its constitution approved in its entirety.

Great Britain has divided the Palestine mandated area into two parts: Palestine proper and Transjordan. Palestine proper, the major division, is governed in the general manner of a crown colony, but with a High Commissioner instead

The Solomon Islanders can make any animal sacred among their relatives. When a tribesman is about to die, he calls his relatives to his death bed and tells them what sort of an animal he wishes to receive his soul. It may be a bird, a butterfly or a shark. Whatever it is, the creature named henceforth is held sacred.

Apologize to Tigers They Accidentally Kill

Tigers are seldom killed by certain Sumatran tribes. If one is killed accidentally or in self-defense, the dead animal receives an apology, for it might have contained the soul of one of the killer's relatives.

The famous white elephants of Siam which were supposed to embody the spirit of some ancient king or hero were once worshiped by the Siamese. When a white elephant was captured, it was tied to a tree with a silk rope until tamed and taught "elephant etiquette" of the royal household. The floating wooden palace on which the sacred beast was brought to Bangkok was handsomely decorated and there were attendants who bathed and perfumed it throughout the journey. Tender grasses, sugar cane and other choice elephant foods were served on gold and silver trays. The remainder of the ceremony of induction into the royal herd compared with the gorgeousness of a coronation ceremony of an eastern potentate.

Bulletin No. 3, May 12, 1930.

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THE TERROR OF THE JUNGLES IS A SACRED ANIMAL IN SUMATRA

Many tigers of northern Siam are man-eaters, and the villagers live in constant dread of their depredations. Once having overcome their instinctive fear of man, they become very bold, often going into the villages to seize their prey. The Laos are no match for these beasts, and of all jungle creatures only the elephant, and on occasion the buffalo, can make a stand against them.

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Bandits Aid Explorer in Unknown Chinese Mountains

DR. JOSEPH F. ROCK, famous plant explorer, leader of the National Geographic Society's 1927-1930 expedition to unexplored areas of the China-Tibetan borderland, has returned to Washington with a noteworthy collection of plant and zoological specimens, and remarkable photographs of lofty, snow-covered mountains which have been the subject of much geographic speculation.

Dr. Rock is the man who braved tigers and wild elephants to locate the trees which yield chaulmoogra oil, used in the treatment of leprosy; later found aboriginal tribes in west China practicing pre-Buddhist religious rites, and obtained for the United States Library of Congress a complete set of the priceless Tibetan classics from the Buddhist monastery at Choni before it was destroyed last year.

On his present expedition Dr. Rock devoted his first year to exploration of the majestic Konkaling snow peaks, northwest of the semi-independent lama kingdom of Muli in the Chinese province of Szechwan.

Muli King Secured Bandit Guard for Explorer

These peaks had not previously been visited by any foreigner. They are situated in the territory infested by Tibetan bandits, and the menace of these bandits has made the area too perilous for exploration. For more than twenty years not even the natives have made a circle tour of these peaks, although because these are sacred mountains it is considered a holy act to walk around them.

The expedition explored the peaks on two different occasions, and crossed among them once. This was done with the aid of the Muli king who had friendly relations with the head bandit of this lofty stronghold. The bandit chief detailed his own men to escort Dr. Rock among the mountains, and this escort was reinforced by a small guard assigned to the expedition by the Muli chief.

In the Konkaling area he traversed the gorges of the Shou Chu, a river whose mouth only had hitherto been known. For 11 days the expedition followed this river toward its source.

Mountain without Name Christened Grosvenor Peak

Last year Dr. Rock explored another region of southwestern Szechwan, where he was the first civilized man to see, at close range, and the first to photograph, the lofty Minya Konka peak, which has so long been a geographic mystery. Dr. Rock proceeded over high passes, reaching a point within 4 miles of the top of Minya Konka, and brought back many photographs taken at distances ranging from 4 to 12 miles. In the vicinity he pursued his primary work of collecting botanical and zoological specimens.

Minya Konka is surrounded by a number of lofty peaks. All of these save one the explorer found to have local names applied by Minya Tibetans, in many cases the names of local deities. One, which was nameless, Dr. Rock named the Grosvenor Peak for the president of the National Geographic Society.

Dr. Rock also explored territory between Muli and Tatsienlu, a stretch of country hitherto unexplored either from a botanical or geographical standpoint. He followed the gorges of the Yatung River which, in one place, are 12,000 feet deep.

Among the mass of valuable scientific data and photographs of high geographic interest brought back by Dr. Rock are about 20,000 sheets of plants he collected. While he was in the field he shipped back seeds of 173 species of rhododendrons not previously introduced in America.

of a governor in charge. Plans for a partially elective legislative council have not been put into operation because of refusal of some of the Arab inhabitants to vote.

Transjordan, the minor division, has been given the governmental form of an independent kingdom, governed by a king and an advisory council. Through the High Commissioner in Jerusalem and a British Resident in Amman, the Mandatory Power exercises close control over the government.

Tanganyika May Become Part of New Dominion

The Central Africa mandated areas adjoin territories of the powers which received the mandates, and in most cases the areas have been incorporated with those territories for governmental purposes. Thus the slice of German Togoland given under mandate to Great Britain was attached to the adjacent Provinces of Gold Coast Colony and Northern Territories. The slice placed under France is administered separately. The portion of the former German Cameroons mandated to France is attached to French Equatorial Africa. The British share of Cameroons is similarly attached to Nigeria. Ruanda was originally to be mandated to Belgium, but, by agreement between that nation and Great Britain, a strip was handed over to the latter country, and the two parts were separately mandated. The Belgian portion has been attached to the Belgian Congo and the British part to Tanganyika territory, for administrative purposes.

Tanganyika, the remaining one of the Class B mandated areas, has a separate territorial government. If Great Britain's East African Dominion is created, as proposed, Tanganyika will become a part of it.

Little Nauru Valued for Phosphate Deposits

South West Africa, under mandate to the Union of South Africa, is governed as a territory of the Union. An Administrator, representing the Governor General of South Africa, is in local charge.

Of the remainder of the Class C mandated areas, northeastern New Guinea and the adjacent islands are governed as a Territory of Australia; Western Samoa is governed as a Territory of New Zealand; and the Marianas, Caroline and Marshall Islands are governed as a Territory of Japan. Little Nauru was mandated to Great Britain. Its sole value results from its phosphate deposits, which are jointly owned by British, Australian and New Zealand capital. By agreement among the three interested countries, Australia is at present furnishing an Administrator.

The various mandates and their disposition follow:

The Near East Mandates—Class A:

Iraq, under mandate to Great Britain.
Syria, under mandate to France.
Palestine (and Transjordan), under mandate to Great Britain.

The Central African Mandates—Class B:

Western Togoland, under mandate to Great Britain.
Eastern Togoland, under mandate to France.
Western Cameroons, under mandate to Great Britain.
Eastern Cameroons, under mandate to France.
Western Ruanda, under mandate to Belgium.
Eastern Ruanda, under mandate to Great Britain.
Tanganyika, under mandate to Great Britain.

The South African and Pacific Island Mandates—Class C:

South West Africa, under mandate to The Union of South Africa.
Northeast New Guinea and adjacent islands, under mandate to Australia.
Western Samoa, under mandate to New Zealand.
Nauru, under mandate to Great Britain.
Marianas, Caroline and Marshall Islands, under mandate to Japan.

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THE LIVING BUDDHA OF GUYA IS SIX YEARS OLD

Many of the chief monasteries of the Chinese Tibetan borderland have living Buddhas. The Buddhist authorities may decide that the spirit of the previous living Buddha has been reborn in the baby son of some farmer. The child is then brought to the monastery to be the living Buddha and head of the monastery until his death (see Bulletin No. 5).

How to Obtain the Bulletins for Next Year

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